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DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 7 1944
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MR. BERLE

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Date:

To: Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State

Jdh

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Subject: Revolution in Ecuador

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As you know, the revolutionary forces sponsored by the Alianza Democratica Ecuatoriana have been successful in overthrowing the Ecuadorian Government, and the provisional government established by the revolutionary element has taken over control of the Republic.

It is reliably reported that President Arroyo del Rio is presently in asylum in the Colombian Embassy, and that other members of the Cabinet have sought the protection of various Legations and Embassies in Quito. However, the Minister of Government, Aurelio Aguilar Vasquez, is reported to be in custody of the revolutionary elements now confined to the Federal jail at Quito. Alberto Wright Vallarino was at first reported to be confined to the Federal jail, however, it is now reported that his whereabouts is unknown. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Francisco Guarderas (Perez), has sought the protection of the Brazilian Embassy; Alberto Cucalon Jimenez, Minister of Public Works, is residing under the protection of the Venezuelan Embassy; and Carlos Roca Carbo, Minister of Agriculture, is protected by shelter afforded in the Cuban Embassy.

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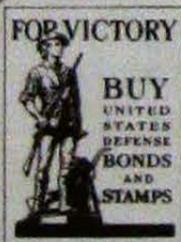
As yet, no order has been issued for the arrest of Abelardo Montalvo, Minister of Education, and Leopoldo N. Chavez, Minister of Social Welfare. Montalvo is presently residing at his home while the whereabouts of Chavez has not yet been determined.

Velasco Ibarra has now arrived in Quito and immediately upon his arrival, made a public address wherein he advised the Ecuadorian people that as of the moment he was assuming supreme power of government and that he would appoint a cabinet on the evening of June 1, 1944. He further stated that an election would be held within the next sixty days whereby members of a constitutional assembly would be chosen, and that the president of the republic would then be selected by the assembly. Velasco Ibarra stated that the government would support the Allies, seek to better Latin American relations, and would support the Gran Colombian political theory.

It has been reported, but not confirmed, that the removal of the Colombian Ambassador to Ecuador, Gustavo Santos, was effected either at the request or the indicated desire of the deposed Ecuadorian

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Government because he was furthering the cause of Gran Colombia and indirectly was promoting the political aspiration of Velasco Ibarra. The Gran Colombia political theory, as you know, embraces close cooperation between the countries situated in the northern area of South America.

It is reported that the Conservative Party in Ecuador will actively support Velasco Ibarra, however, the position of other parties has not yet been indicated. It is stated that evidence exists indicating the Socialist Party will not be loyal to Velasco and, as previously indicated, there is evidence of dissension among the parties that compose the Alianza.

Prior to the return of Velasco Ibarra to Ecuador when he assumed supreme power of the government, it was ascertained that members of the Governing Committee of the provisional government were in disagreement as to political policy and appointments. They lacked organization and took no steps toward forming a cabinet and merely awaited the arrival of Velasco inasmuch as they believed that he was the only individual capable of uniting the various political factions which made up the revolutionary element, and it was ascertained that the Governing Committee was depending upon Velasco to initiate an orderly government.

A reliable source has advised that the Archbishop of Quito will not support Velasco because of his remarriage, which was accomplished as a result of a non-Catholic approved divorce.

Information has been received from Lima, Peru, wherein it is stated that no official comment has been made by the Peruvian Government concerning the Ecuadorian revolt. Exhaustive accounts of the revolution have been printed in the Lima newspapers, however, there is no indication that the Ecuadorian revolution will have any effect on the people or government of Peru.

This information has been made available to the American Embassy at Quito, Ecuador.

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

cc - Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney